



## **FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

### **Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

**SUMMARY:** On June 15, 1984, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delegated to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) its approval authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.16, to approve of and assign OMB control numbers to collection of information requests and requirements conducted or sponsored by the Board under conditions set forth in 5 CFR 1320 Appendix A.1. Board-approved collections of information are incorporated into the official OMB inventory of currently approved collections of information. Copies of the Paperwork Reduction Act Submission, supporting statements and approved collection of information instruments are placed into OMB's public docket files. The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before [insert date 60 days after publication in the Federal Register].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by FR 1374, by any of the following methods:

- Agency Web Site: <http://www.federalreserve.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/foia/proposedregs.aspx>.
- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- E-mail: [regs.comments@federalreserve.gov](mailto:regs.comments@federalreserve.gov). Include OMB number in the subject line of the message.
- FAX: (202) 452-3819 or (202) 452-3102.
- Mail: Robert deV. Frierson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20551.

All public comments are available from the Board's web site at [www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/ProposedRegs.cfm](http://www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/ProposedRegs.cfm) as submitted, unless modified for technical reasons. Accordingly, your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information. Public comments may also be viewed electronically or in paper form in Room MP-500 of the Board's Martin Building (20th and C Streets, N.W.) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Additionally, commenters may send a copy of their comments to the OMB Desk Officer—Shagufta Ahmed --Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235 725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395-6974.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A copy of the PRA OMB submission, including the proposed reporting form and instructions, supporting statement, and other documentation will be placed into OMB's public docket files, once approved. These documents will also be made available on the Federal Reserve Board's public website at:

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/reportforms/review.aspx> or may be requested from the agency clearance officer, whose name appears below.

Federal Reserve Board Clearance Officer —Cynthia Ayouch-- Office of the Chief Data Officer, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551 (202) 452-3829. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact (202) 263-4869, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Request for comment on information collection proposal**

The following information collection, which is being handled under this delegated authority, has received initial Board approval and is hereby published for comment. At the end of the comment period, the proposed information collection, along with an analysis of comments and recommendations received, will be submitted to the Board for final approval under OMB delegated authority. Comments are invited on the following:

- a. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the Federal Reserve's functions; including whether the information has practical utility;
- b. The accuracy of the Federal Reserve's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- c. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
- d. Ways to minimize the burden of information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and

- e. Estimates of capital or start up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

**Proposal to approve under OMB delegated authority the extension for three years, with revision, of the following report:**

*Report title:* Intermittent Survey of Business.

*Agency form number:* FR 1374.

*OMB control number:* 7100-0302.

*Frequency:* On Occasion.

*Reporters:* Businesses and state and local governments.

*Estimated annual reporting hours:* 1,825 hours.

*Estimated average hours per response:* 15 minutes.

*Number of respondents:* 2410.

*General description of report:* This information collection is voluntary (12 U.S.C. 225a and 263) and may be given confidential treatment (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4)).

*Abstract:* The survey data are used by the Federal Reserve to gather information specifically tailored to the Federal Reserve's policy and operational responsibilities. There are two parts to this event-generated survey. First, under the guidance of Board economists, the Federal Reserve Banks survey business contacts as economic developments warrant.

Currently, there are approximately 240 business respondents for each survey (about 20 per Reserve Bank); occasionally state and local government officials are called, in which case there are far fewer respondents. It is necessary to conduct these surveys to provide timely information to the members of the Board and to the presidents of the Reserve Banks. Usually, these surveys are conducted by Reserve Bank staff economists telephoning or emailing purchasing managers, economists, or other knowledgeable individuals at selected, relevant businesses. Reserve Bank staff may also use online survey tools to collect responses to the survey. The frequency and content of the questions, as well as the entities contacted, vary depending on developments in the economy. Second, economists at the Board survey business contacts by telephone, inquiring about current business conditions. Board economists conduct these surveys as economic conditions require, with approximately ten respondents for each survey.

*Current actions:* The Federal Reserve proposes to increase the permitted number of respondents from 240 to 2,400, for the Reserve Bank surveys. This increase would allow (but not require) Reserve Banks to survey an average of 200 respondents per District instead of 20, providing better representation and more complete coverage of the developments within each District. The Reserve Banks have recently increased the number of

businesses surveyed to better assess local markets (especially with respect to issues of broad applicability). The Board part of the survey would remain unchanged.

` Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, July 23, 2013.

Robert deV. Frierson,  
Secretary of the Board.  
Billing Code 6210-01-P

[FR Doc. 2013-17961 Filed 07/25/2013 at 8:45 am; Publication Date:  
07/26/2013]